

Amendments to the Specification

In the specification, please replace the first full paragraph on page 5, lines 11 through 19, with the following paragraph:

--The invention is based on the discovery that Chemerin, a polypeptide resulting from the proteolytic processing of the Proprecherin precursor, is a natural ligand of the ChemerinR, and binds specifically to ChemerinR. The invention encompasses a class of polypeptide sequences issued from the C-terminal end of Chemerin containing a sequence motif N1N2X1X2X3N3X4N4X5 (SEQ ID NO:94) wherein N1-N4 are aromatic amino acids and X1-X5 are any amino acid, as well as the nucleic acid sequences encoding this sequence motif. In one embodiment, the polypeptide comprises YFX1X2X3FX4FX5 (SEQ ID NO:92). In another embodiment, the polypeptide comprises YFPGQFAFS (SEQ ID NO:61). In another embodiment, the polypeptide comprises QRAGEDPHSFYFPGQFAFS (SEQ ID NO:53).—

In the specification, please replace the first full paragraph on page 5, lines 25 through 29, and page 6, lines 1-4, with the following paragraph:

--The invention further encompasses expressing vectors encoding polypeptides that specifically bind to a ChemerinR polypeptide. In one embodiment, the expressing vector encodes the polypeptide or peptide sequences comprising N1N2X1X2X3N3X4N4X5 (SEQ ID NO:94), wherein N1-N3 are aromatic amino acids and X1-X5 are any amino acids. In another embodiment, the expressing vector encodes the polypeptide sequences comprising YFX1X2X3FX4FX5 (SEQ ID NO:92). In another embodiment, the expressing vector encodes the polypeptides comprising YFPGQFAFS (SEQ ID NO:61). In another embodiment, the expressing vector encodes the polypeptides comprising QRAGEDPHSFYFPGQFAFS (SEQ ID NO: 53). In another embodiment, the expressing vector encodes a Preprocherin polypeptide as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 47.--